

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY M:FNSPOTTS:LK

APPROVED BY M:LSEAGLEBURGER

M/FSI:DR. FRITH

M/FSI:GSPRINGSTEEN

NEA:WSWEISLOGEL

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

----- 118238

R 230543Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182565

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, TS

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT AT FSI ARABIC SCHOOL

REF: STATE 175498; TUNIS 5052

1. STATE 175498 SHOULD HAVE SAID EXPLICITLY THAT ANY APPROACH TO THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESUME YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS STEP, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR FORTHRIGHT PRESENTATION IN TUNIS 5052 OF YOUR CONCERNS.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARABIC TRAINING PROGRAM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAIRO, WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO CLOSE FSI TUNIS WHEN THE LAST STUDENTS COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES IN DECEMBER. WE DECIDED TO KEEP IT GOING ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS UNTIL JULY 1977 BOTH IN CASE THE AUC PROGRAM IS NOT SATISFACTORY AND IN ORDEF TO ACCOMMODATE THE MILITARY WHO HAD SEVERAL STUDENTS FOR ADVANCED ARABIC-TRAINVNG. IT WAS PLAIN AT THE TIME, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU CONCURRED BEFORE GOING TO TUNIS,

THAT THE SCHOOL WOULD HAVE A PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY ENROLLMENT DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. UNTIL WE SEE HOW THE AUC PROGRAM IS WORKING OUT, WE CAN MAKE NO PREDICTION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE TUNIS SCHOOL

OR ITS ENROLLMENT. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE FSI SCHOOL BE MAINTAINED, IT WILL INCLUDE AN APPRECIABLE NUMBER OF NON-STATE DEPARTMENT STUDENTS. FSI IS RESPONSIBLE THROUGH THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACT TO TRAIN BOTH STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND PERSONNEL OF ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES. FOR THIS REASON MILITARY AND OTHER PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN REGULARLY ENROLLED IN FSO LANGUAGE TRAINING BOTH IN THE FIELD AND WASHINGTON.

4. IN SHORT I THINK YOU SHOULD REGARD THE AUSTRALIAN CASE AS A UNIQUE ONE TO BE JUDGED ON ITS OWN MERITS. WE HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION OF CONSIDERING FURTHER FOREIGN STUDENTS UNTIL WE REACH SOME CONCLUSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL ITSELF. AT THAT TIME WE WILL FULLY CONSULT YOU.

5. OUR PROVISIONAL DECISION TO ENROLL AN AUSTRALIAN FSO WAS MOTIVATED BOTH BY COST CONSIDERATIONS (THE ADDITION OF EVEN ONE STUDENT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE PER CAPITA COSTS) AND THE DESIRE TO ACCOMMODATE A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT.

6. WE ARE NOT COMMITTED TO TAKING THIS AUSTRALIAN STUDENT AND IF YOU CONCLUDE THAT HIS ENTRY INTO THE SCHOOL WOULD COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT, WE ARE PREPARED TO DROP THE MATTER. HOWEVER, IF YOU DECIDE TO APPROACH THE TUNISIANS, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND LET US KNOW THE RESPONSE. ROBINSON

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